



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held August 21, 2007, the Board took the following action:

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Marvin J. Southard, Director of Mental Health, and Patricia S. Ploehn, Director of Children and Family Services, presented the attached report by the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Directors of Mental Health and Children and Family Services, on an implementation timetable and financing options for the modified Countywide Enhanced Specialized Foster Care Mental Health Services Plan (County Plan); and put forth for approval and authorization for implementation the modified County Plan. Brandon T. Nichols, Senior Deputy County Counsel, also responded to questions posed by the Board.

Bruce Saltzer, representing the Association of Community Human Service Agencies, addressed the Board.

After discussion, Supervisor Molina requested that the Directors of Mental Health and Children and Family Services provide a quarterly report to the Board for the monitoring and tracking of the components of the Countywide Enhanced Specialized Foster Care Mental Health Services Corrective Action Plan.

In addition, Supervisor Antonovich requested the Chief Executive Officer to report back during the supplemental budget process on whether any of the new Department of Children and Family Services items that the Board approved in Fiscal Year 2006-2007 can be restructured to perform duties that support the Katie A. settlement.

The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisors Yaroslavsky and Antonovich:

“A key component of the Katie A. Corrective Action Plan is an expansion of Wraparound services. As authorized by Senate Bill 163, Los Angeles County has provided Wraparound services to families and their children with multiple and complex needs since 1998. Administered by the Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Mental Health (DMH), Wraparound is a multi-agency, community-based program intended to reduce the number of children and youth placed in high-end congregate care placement settings. The Katie A. Corrective Action Plan will increase its services to eligible families from 553 at the end of Fiscal Year 2005-2006 to more than 1,217 families by the end of Fiscal Year 2007-2008.

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“Since the program’s inception, Wraparound has demonstrated positive outcomes. According to the 2006 Wraparound Annual Report, children enrolled in the program were able to return home quicker and remain in their communities with greater frequency than those children not receiving Wraparound services. They also function well in school, home and community environments, and achieve overall improved functioning as measured by the Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale.

“However, these outcomes come at a high price. Under the existing contract structure, Wraparound providers receive a fixed rate of \$4,184 per month per child, regardless of actual costs incurred. According to the latest estimates for Fiscal Year 2007-2008, \$12.4 million of the \$17.4 million in DCFS Net County Cost for the Katie A. Corrective Action Plan is attributable to expanding Wraparound.”

After discussion, Supervisor Yaroslavsky made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, that the Board take the following actions:

1. Instruct the Chief Executive Officer, in conjunction with the Director of Children and Family Services, to:
 - Determine the actual average per child per month costs of providing Wraparound services; and
 - If the costs are significantly below the fixed rate of \$4,184 per child per month, evaluate the feasibility of amending the existing Wraparound contracts to provide for either cost-based reimbursement, a tiered-funding structure allowing flexibility based on the child’s needs, or a fixed monthly per child reimbursement that reflects actual costs expended; and
2. Instruct the Chief Executive Officer to provide a report to the Board on his findings no later than September 11, 2007.

On motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Burke, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions:

1. Directed the Directors of Mental Health and Children and Family Services to provide quarterly reports to the Board for the monitoring and tracking of the components of the Countywide Enhanced Specialized Foster Care Mental Health Services Corrective Action Plan;

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2. Directed the Chief Executive Officer to report back during the supplemental budget process on whether any of the new Department of Children and Family Services items that the Board approved in Fiscal Year 2006-2007 can be restructured to perform duties that support the Katie A. settlement;
3. Instructed the Chief Executive Officer, in conjunction with Director of Children and Family Services, to:
 - Determine the actual average per child per month costs of providing Wraparound services; and
 - If the costs are significantly below the fixed monthly rate of \$4,184 per child, evaluate the feasibility of amending the existing Wraparound contracts to provide for either cost-based reimbursement, a tiered-funding structure allowing flexibility based on the child's needs, or a fixed monthly per child reimbursement that reflects actual costs expended;
4. Instructed the Chief Executive Officer to provide a report to the Board on his findings no later than September 11, 2007; and
5. Approved the attached modified Countywide Enhanced Specialized Foster Care Mental Health Services Plan.

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Attachment

Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Director of Mental Health
Director of Children and Family Services